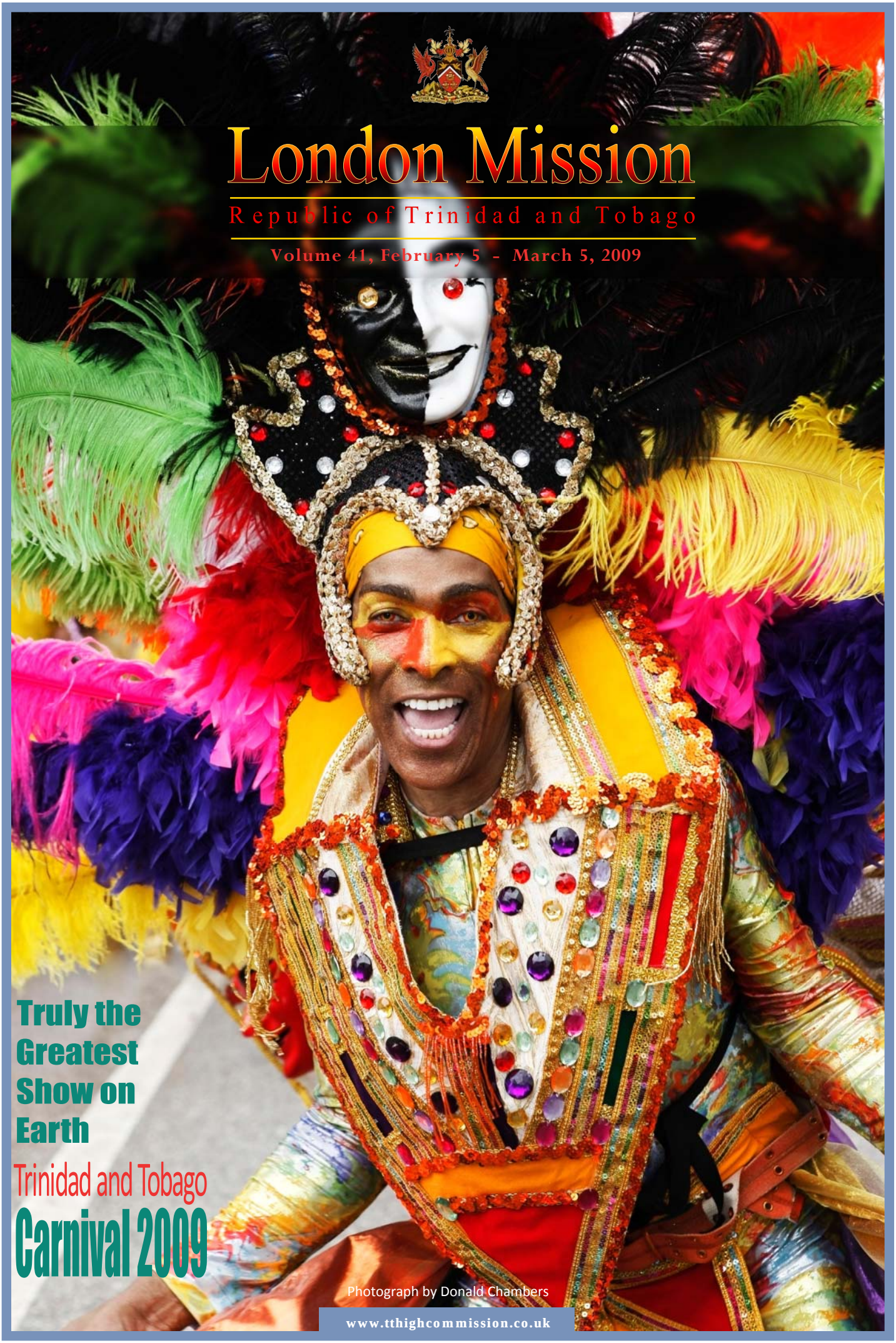

London Mission

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Volume 41, February 5 - March 5, 2009

Truly the Greatest Show on Earth

Trinidad and Tobago

Carnival 2009

Photograph by Donald Chambers

www.tthighcommission.co.uk

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Product of the High Commission of
the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, London

CARICOM Secretary-General pleased with agenda for Fifth Summit of the Americas

Above: *CARICOM Secretary General Edwin Carrington and National Coordinator Ambassador Luis Alberto Rodriguez hold discussions.*

"The Fifth Summit of the Americas has to change the relationship between our countries and the countries of the Hemisphere". That was the view of CARICOM Secretary-General Edwin Carrington, who recently paid an official visit to the National Secretariat in Port of Spain where he held talks with National Coordinator Ambassador Luis Alberto Rodriguez and other officials of the Secretariat.

Mr. Carrington said that he was encouraged by the agenda outlined for the Summit as well as the arrangements being put in place for a successful event.

Ambassador Rodriguez described as "most extensive" the consultation process that went into the development of the concept paper and the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain. He added that the "Fifth Summit should reflect a CARICOM spirit" and noted that the first stage of negotiation on the Draft Declaration began in the region.

The National Coordinator will be in Washington shortly for the second round of negotiations for 2009 with the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG). The SIRG is the political and negotiating body responsible for follow-up on Summit mandates, coordinating the Summit of the Americas agenda and preparing for future Summits.

During this stage of negotiations, the Group will focus on the last three paragraphs of the document, which deal with Strengthening Public Security; Strengthening Democratic Governance; and Strengthening the Summit of the Americas, Follow-up and Implementation Effectiveness.

The SIRG is also expected to continue its deliberations on several outstanding issues regarding the pillars of Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability.

Secretary-General Carrington also noted that there is an excitement building in the region as we move closer to the Summit and he offered his assistance to the National Secretariat.

National Coordinator Ambassador Luis Alberto Rodriguez

Ambassador Rodriguez added that the Fifth Summit was not a talk shop and was "based on dialogue which paves the way for the future". He said that the voice of the region must be heard on issues affecting the world like the international financial crisis.

The Honourable Patrick Manning
Prime Minister
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

From the Office of the Prime Minister

Preparations for the Summit of the Americas are well under way

Prime Minister, the Hon. Patrick Manning, recently held high level talks with the Permanent Representative of the United States to the OAS and US National Co-ordinator for the Summit of the Americas, Ambassador Hector Morales, at his St. Clair offices, to discuss the state of preparedness of Trinidad and Tobago for the April multilateral meeting.

Prime Minister Manning in responding to questions posed by US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton through Ambassador Morales, about the progress of the Summit, gave the assurance that plans formulated for the run up to the Summit were being carefully and methodically executed by the local team led by Ambassador Luis Rodriguez. Prime Minister Manning stated: "Challenges currently facing the summit team are being met head on and I am quite am optimistic, that the summit will be a successful one."

The US delegation headed by Ambassador Morales included US Dep. Asst. Sec. of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Ambassador David Robinson, Chargé d'Affaires Len Kusnitz and Ms. Velia de Pirro, Director of Caribbean Affairs. The local delegation, headed by the Prime Minister, included Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Head of the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Summit of the Americas, Senator Mariano Browne, National Co-ordinator for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, Ambassador Luis Rodriguez, and a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Morales went on to say that the US Government, had pledged support to Trinidad and Tobago for the Summit preparations and provision of resources in that regard. He expressed his deep satisfaction with the process thus far and indicated that there was tremendous excitement in the United States about the prospects of the meeting, with particular significance being ascribed, more especially as the host was a Caribbean Head.

The America delegation also took the opportunity to mention that it would be the first visit to the Caribbean in any capacity for President Obama and his first opportunity to meet with his 33 hemispheric colleague Heads to discuss matters of urgent regional and international significance. They indicated further that this would place the conference into even sharper international focus, thereby intensifying its overall importance.

The two principals ended their talks on a warm note with Ambassador Morales reiterating his country's offer of support to Trinidad and Tobago and with Prime Minister Manning assuring that Trinidad and Tobago would deliver a Summit designed to meet and exceed expectations.

No Visas to UK for T&T nationals

Left: *The Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon*
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

No visa requirement is to be imposed on Trinidad and Tobago nationals travelling to the UK for up to six months. This was disclosed by Foreign Affairs Minister Paula Gopee-Scoon during a news conference at her office in Port-of-Spain.

The announcement was also made in the UK Parliament on February 8th 2009.

Last July, the British Government announced that it was considering the introduction of visa regimes for T&T and 10 other countries, including Venezuela, Brazil and South Africa because of serious immigration breaches in the UK by nationals of those countries.

The 11 countries were given a six-month period to address the specific illegal immigration risks posed by their nationals to the UK. Minister Gopee-Scoon said that if adequate steps were not taken to address the concerns, a visa requirement would have been introduced for T&T nationals. She added that the British Government had "serious concerns over the vulnerability of the T&T passport application and issuing processes.

It demanded that work must be done to show credible plans to improve the T&T passport and identification processes and there must be a significant reduction in the level of immigration abuse by holders of the T&T passport.

James Dolan, the press and public officer of the British Embassy in Port-of-Spain said: "We have been able to make real progress with a number of countries, including T&T, through a combination of advice, training and improved working relations on migration matters."

EMA bids to end water pollution

According to Managing Director of the Environmental Management Authority (EMA), Dr. Joth Singh, the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) quarry operators and petrochemical companies were the main water polluters in Trinidad and Tobago. Singh made the comment during a water pollution permit (WPR) presentation ceremony on February 18, 2009, at the EMA conference room in St James. He stated that the EMA was already working with WASA to address this concern and intended to also work with petrochemical companies and quarry operators to reduce pollution. Singh noted that while some multinational companies were operating in Trinidad and Tobago in accordance with international standards, the EMA still had to work closely with those companies.

Mr. Singh went on to state that the EMA had implemented the water pollution permits to get companies to reduce both volumes and concentrations of pollutants discharged in their waste water. However, Carib Glassworks Ltd's Mathura Sand Plant was the first company to be issued a WPR in Trinidad and Tobago, under the Water Pollution (Amendment) Rules 2006. The WPR is valid for five years and is intended to improve the overall quality of water in the nation's rivers, swamps, aquifers and coastal areas. Managing Director of Carib Glassworks Ltd, Roger Mew, said that the company had always taken positive steps in environmental management and would continue to work with the EMA to bring the quarry up to the required standard. He also made a personal appeal for the authorities to focus on the issue of reforestation.

Having identified the North Oropouche Watershed as the first project, EMA Managing Director Singh said that National Quarries Ltd and Readymix (WI) Ltd were notified of the need to apply for a WPR. He added that the EMA would be seeking to include hotels, farms, restaurants, and sewage treatment facilities under the permit regime. But he warned that even though it was being done on a voluntary basis, if the companies did not comply, "there would be legal implications."

Trini...a synonym for excellence!

Trinidad and Tobago Designer behind Historic Inauguration

Scene from the inauguration

A Tobogao-born textile specialist played a prominent role in decorating the United States Capitol in Washington for the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Myrtle Sampson Nora, who is from Moriah, Tobago, was the person behind the original design which was viewed by millions around the world during the historic event on Tuesday January 20th. Her achievements were highlighted in a recent edition of *The Visitor*, a publication of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in the United States.

While Nora says that this was her proudest career accomplishment, it was not her first. In January 2005, she also made similar patriotic drapery decoration for the inauguration of President George W Bush. Nora is a textile specialist in the textile division of the Rayburn Building on the campus of the Capitol, a position which she has held for nine years.

In 2004, Nora received an award from the Chief Office of Administration in the House of Representatives for her diligence in sewing the black velvet covering for the Lincoln catafalque that supported the caskets of President Ronald W. Reagan in 2004 and President Gerald R. Ford in 2006.

In November 2005, she worked on the catafalque for Rosa Parks' casket and the accompanying draperies in the Capitol Rotunda. Nora also makes all the window treatments that decorate the offices and committee rooms in the United States House of Representatives.

Nora's minister, Pastor Brenda Billingy, who is a national of Trinidad and Tobago, publicly acknowledged her contribution to this historic event. "It's truly an honour to be able to share Nora's talents with the world, and she did that in an exquisite fashion for the President's inauguration," said Pastor Billingy. "We are very proud of her, and together we celebrate the honour she receives."

Nora was acknowledged by the Trinidad and Tobago Ambassador to the US, Her Excellency Glenda Morean-Phillip S.C.

Courtesy Newsday

The following is a release by:

CENTRAL BANK OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

INFLATION SLOWS: CENTRAL BANK MAINTAINS REPO RATE AT 8.75 PER CENT

Recent data released by the Central Statistical Office indicate that headline inflation slowed markedly to 11.7 per cent in the twelve months to January 2009 from 14.5 per cent in December 2008 and from a high of 15.4 per cent in September 2008. The monthly headline inflation rate registered a 0.4 per cent decline in January 2009, the first fall in the past eleven months. The slowdown has occurred in both food prices and core inflation.

The increase in food prices which measured 30.6 per cent year-on-year in December 2008, slowed to 25.9 per cent in the twelve months to January 2009. The moderation in food inflation covered about 90 per cent of the items in the food sub-index. The marked reduction in international commodity prices was the main factor behind lower domestic food prices. However, a decline in the prices of some local food produce also contributed to lower food inflation.

On a monthly basis, food prices fell by 1.5 per cent in January 2009 compared with an increase of 0.3 per cent in the previous month. There were notable declines in the prices of vegetables (3.8 per cent) and milk, cheese and eggs (0.6 per cent). However, the prices of fruits, sugar and confectionery products and fish registered monthly increases of 4.6 per cent, 1.5 per cent and 8.0 per cent, respectively.

Core inflation, which had also been climbing steadily during 2008, slowed sharply to 5.2 per cent on a year-on-year basis in January 2009 from 7.1 per cent in December 2008. The sub-indices for home ownership and clothing and footwear showed little or no increase in January. On a monthly basis, a reduction in recreation and culture (8.8 per cent) emanating from a sizeable fall in the "package holiday" component of the sub-index also contributed to the lower core inflation rate. The fall in core inflation is partly due to the slowing in domestic economic activity and domestic demand.

Net fiscal injections have been slightly lower for the year to date, while bank credit expansion continues to slow. Private sector credit expansion by the consolidated financial system slowed to 10.4 per cent on a year-on-year basis to December 2008 from 16.1 per cent in December 2007. This slowdown has been especially pronounced in consumer credit, which grew on a year-on-year basis to December 2008 by 5.7 per cent compared to 21.3 per cent in December 2007. Business credit, however, grew twice as fast as consumer credit on a year-on year basis to December 2008.

The contraction in bank credit expansion has resulted in a rise in excess reserve balances of the banking system and has impacted short-term interest rates. The three-month treasury bill rate fell to 4.37 per cent in February 2009 from 7.05 per cent in December 2008 resulting in a sharp narrowing in the differential between US and TT short-term interest rates. This differential fell to 404 basis points in February 2009 from 700 basis points in December 2008.

In the period ahead, slower economic growth and reduced credit expansion should help contain domestic demand. Recent announcements of a 20-30 per cent reduction in the price of rice along with the suspension or removal of the common external tariff on sugar, cheese and soya-bean oil should also have a dampening effect on food prices in the coming months. In this environment, inflation risks are tilted more towards the downside.

The Bank has decided to maintain the 'Repo' rate at 8.75 per cent. The Bank will continue to keep a close watch on international, regional and domestic economic developments and is prepared to take appropriate monetary policy action if circumstances so warrant.

The next 'Repo' rate announcement is scheduled for March 27, 2009.

High Commission hosts Trade Mission Delegation

EYE ON TRADE

Above: *Public Affairs Attaché, Ashton Ford (centre) and Assistant Trade Attaché, Rasheda Morton (second from right) with members of the Trade Delegation at the Trinidad and High Commission briefing. Photo by Donna Philip-Forde.*

Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom have long enjoyed strong bilateral relations. This is evident by the buoyant trade activity and the consistent exchange of goods and services between the countries.

In November 2007, Croydon Business in collaboration with UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) facilitated a Trade Mission to the Caribbean and participants visited Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Jamaica. The Trade Mission was quite successful and most participants left Trinidad and Tobago with business orders or some memorandum of understanding for follow up.

Fast forward March 2009, and South London Business is working with UKTI to take another Mission to the Caribbean. The delegation is expected to be in Trinidad and Tobago from March 23- 25th, 2009, to take advantage of new business opportunities and to meet local companies, joint venture partners and engage with financial and government support services.

The Trade Department at the High Commission works closely with UKTI and other stakeholders to ensure participants are well briefed on the opportunities available for doing business in Trinidad and Tobago and the benefits of same. To this end, on February 25th, the High Commission was delighted to partner with UKTI's Bryan Treherne and South London Business' Susan Shaw to host the participants briefing for the 2009 Caribbean Trade Mission.

The briefing was chaired by Mr. Bryan Treherne, who has extensive experience in international business, having worked in several advisory roles in the Caribbean and in several countries worldwide.

Mr. Ashton Ford represented the High Commission, in the absence of the Commercial Attaché, Dionne Ligoure who was away on official business. Mr. Ford's presentation included a DVD on investment opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago, supported by a presentation on the benefits of doing business there. He detailed the Trinidad and Tobago Government's drive to diversify the economy and highlighted the sectors earmarked for development. He also gave an update on the Cove Eco-Industrial and Business Park, Tobago, which will be the first eco and industrial business park on the island.

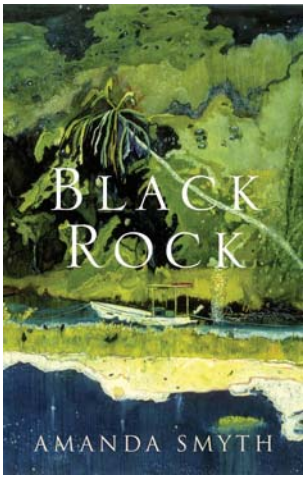
Participants were also given an information package which included the Business Directory 2009, a handbook on the cost of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago and the latest investment guide.

The delegation is expected to be in the Caribbean from March 18th – 28th.

The TTHC's Dionne Ligoure reviews

BLACK ROCK

A novel by Irish-Trinidadian, Amanda Smyth



On Tuesday March 10, Irish-Trinidadian Amanda Smyth beamed with pride as she launched her first novel, ***Black Rock***, at a reception held at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London.

The reception room was full near to capacity with supporters and well wishers from near and far. Amanda spoke of the highs and lows of her journey to complete ***Black Rock***. However, in keeping with her modest persona, Amanda did not prepare readers for the sheer brilliance of the novel.

I started reading ***Black Rock*** and simply could not put the book down. In less than eight hours, I eagerly finished the two hundred and fifty page book, lapping up each syllable, like a Moorish indulgence.

I agree wholeheartedly with novelist Ali Smith, who describes Amanda Smyth's writing as that of a descendant of Jean Rhys. She further describes ***Black Rock*** as a 'powerful cocktail of heat and beautiful coolness, written in a heady, mesmerising yet translucent prose which marks Smyth out as a born novelist.'

Black Rock is an easy, yet riveting read. Copies are available to Trinidad and Tobago nationals at a special price. Please contact Commercial Attaché, Dionne Ligoure on 0207.245.9351 ext. 9680 for more information.

Amanda Smyth is Irish-Trinidadian and was educated in England. She completed an MA in Creative Writing at UEA in 2000. Her short stories and poetry have been published in *New Writing*, *London Magazine*, the *TLS* and broadcast on BBC Radio 4 as part of a series called *Love and Loss*. Amanda was awarded an Arts Council grant for this, her first novel, *Black Rock*.

She lives in Warwickshire and is available for interview and features.

Good reviews on Professor Cudjoe's latest book - Caribbean Visionary

Professor Selwyn Cudjoe launched his latest publication **"Caribbean Visionary**, *A.R.F. Webber and the making of the Caribbean Nation*" at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London on February 25th 2009.

In his address to nationals who attended the launch of the book, His Excellency John Jeremie S.C., High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London, paid glowing tribute to Professor Cudjoe.

Selwyn Cudjoe is a Professor of Africana Studies at Wellesley College where he teaches courses on the African/American Literary Tradition, African Literature, Black Women Writers and Caribbean literature.

Professor Cudjoe is also the author of several books including "Beyond the Boundaries: The intellectual Tradition of Trinidad and Tobago in the 19th Century", "Movement of the People: Essays on Independence", and "Eric Williams Speaks". He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

Present at the launch was Professor Clem Seecharan, Head of the Caribbean Studies at London Metropolitan University. Professor Seecharan congratulated Professor Cudjoe for bringing to light the life and work of the Tobago-born Guyanese, A.R.F. Webber. He noted that the hard work that must have gone into the making of such an important contribution to academia, was not to be underestimated.

Trinidad and Tobago Carnival 2009 - the Results

List of Carnival Band winners for 2009

Children's Bands:
Mini Jr. Band of the Year- Sunny – Rosemary Perkins
Small Jr. Band of the Year – The Rainbow Cycle – Spence Productions
Medium Jr. Band of the year – Heighten – Classic Productions
Large Jr. Band of the Year – National Pride – Rosalind Gabriel and associates

Adult Bands:
Monday Queen of the band – First Lady of the Chinese Court – Pamela Gordon
Monday King of the band – Apollo's Lust – Curtis Eustace

Queen's Park Savannah and Downtown:
Monday Mini Band of the day – Red Indian Days – Henry Ramdin and associates
Monday Large Band of the day – Africa, Her people, Her Glory, Her tears – Brain MacFarlane
Q.P.S. Monday Small Band of the Day: tribute to a Fallen Warrior
Q.P.S. Monday Medium Band of the Day: Trinidad All Stars
Q.P.S. Monday Large Band of the Day: Razzle Dazzle - Starlift

Tuesday Band of the Year:
Mini Band of the Year- Red Indian days – Henry Ramdin and Associates
Small band of the Year – Empires of the Sun – D'Midas
Medium band of the Year – Bacchanal – Ronnie and Caro Mas Band
Large band of the Year – George bailey Award – Africa, her people, her glory, her tears – Brian MacFarlane and Associates – 1378 points

Calypso Results
The Road March was won by Fay Ann Lyons-Alvarez for "Meet Super Blue" played 410 times, with Destra Garcia following with Bacchanal being played 76 times.

Dimanche Gras 2009
1. Dr Hollis Liverpool – Chalkdust – My Hart and I
2. Joanne Rowley –Tigress – You Ent See Wajang Yet
3. Winston Scarborough (D' Original De Fosto Himself)- Could We Rise Again

Queen of Carnival
1. Kadaffi Rommey – Manzandaba in Flight
2. Tamara Alleyne Gittens – Fairy Dust
3. Pamela Gordon – First Lady of the Chinese Court

King of Carnival
1. Stephen Alexis – Ndlovu In Search
2. Curtis Eustace – Apollo's Lust
3. Glen Turnbull – Flight of D' Golden Sun Lord

Panorama 2009 - Large Bands Final Results
1st Silver Stars 469
2nd Phase II Pan Grove 468
3rd Trinidad All Stars 460

Panorama 2009 - Results: Small Bands Finals
Arima Golden Symphony A Blue Crescendo De Fosto 439
San City Steel Symphony A Blue Crescendo De Fosto 434
Tornadoes A Blue Crescendo De Fosto 432

Right: *Queen of Carnival 2009, Kadaffi Romney, portrays Manzandaba in Flight, in McFarlane's Africa.*

With photos by Donald Chambers

Trinidad and Tobago Carnival 2009

Photos by Donald Chambers

Opposite Page

1. Television personality Allyson Hennessy celebrates J'ouvert.
2. Miss Trinidad and Tobago and Miss Universe 1998, Wendy Fitzwilliam, Carnival Tuesday.
3. 4th runner-up, Miss Universe 2004, Trinidad and Tobago's Danielle Jones, Carnival Tuesday.
4. Miss Trinidad and Tobago and Miss Universe 1977 Penny Commisiong participates in McFarlane's winning band - Africa.
5. World-renowned mezzo-soprano opera singer, poet, author, actress and no stranger to the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London, Anne Fridal (at right), and a friend shield themselves from the rain on Carnival Tuesday.
6. Joyce Forbes and Jeffrey Simon, the husband and wife catering team that from Northern Range Ltd, took time off from serving guests at the High Commission to enjoy Carnival 2009.
7. Cricketing legend, Trinidad and Tobago's Brian Lara with a fellow masquerader on Carnival Tuesday.
8. Soca star Destra Garcia enjoying Carnival Tuesday with the band Tribe.
9. Television presenter Alafair Celestine with designer Peter Elias, Tribe, Carnival Tuesday.
10. 'Trini' Londoner Nolan Simmons is all smiles in a McFarlane 'Africa' costume.
11. Soca star Machel Montano with a fellow maswuerader on Carnival Monday evening.

Familiar Faces

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Photos by Donald Chambers

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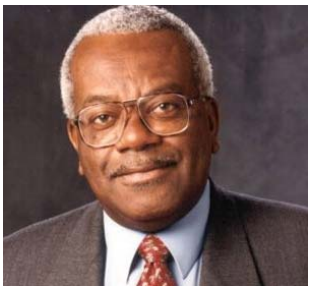
Sir Trevor hails Trinidad and Tobago Carnival 2009



Trinidad and Tobago born veteran British journalist, Sir Trevor McDonald (pictured), described this year's Carnival as one of the best carnivals which Trinidad and Tobago has seen in the last 20 years.

Sir Trevor identified the presence of local security forces as one of the reasons which made Carnival 2009 such a success.

Speaking with Newsday while his ITV team was filming Carnival festivities at the Queen's Park Savannah, Sir Trevor said that the recording of Carnival 2009 celebrations formed part of a documentary about the Caribbean entitled, "Trevor McDonald's Secret Caribbean." Stating that his crew had already visited Cuba, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Montserrat and Antigua to record different parts of the documentary, Sir Trevor said that no documentary about the Caribbean would be complete without a good Trini Carnival. "It's observations about the Caribbean and it's to be shown in England in late summer," he stated. "Carnival had to be a part of it. It's wonderful. It's as glorious as I remember it. I used to be broadcasting this for about 15 years before I left here. I have not been back for a long, long time. It must have been about 20 years," he said.

Above: *Security forces were out in large numbers for the carnival celebrations. Photo by Donald Chambers.*

TAP leaves clay footprints across UK

Trinidad Aggregate Products Limited (TAP) in collaboration with The CP Group of West Yorkshire, United Kingdom (UK), has been leaving clay footprints in homes and offices across the UK. In December 2008, TAP began supplying high quality authentic clay pavers to Ceramic Print (CP), one of the largest tile distributors in the UK. CP distributes to thousands of tile galleries throughout the UK and Europe.

TAP's head of marketing, Dave Pierre, said, "Here at TAP we are in the tile fashioning industry, and we take great pride in customer satisfaction by moulding the living spaces of those who can dream it. TAP manufactures not just a tile, but rather that added touch of elegance to complement the environment surrounding it."

Above: *The Employees of Trinidad Aggregates Ltd shrink wrap boxes of clay tiles in preparation for packing into containers.*

Thirty-seven years of industry experience has afforded TAP an ongoing commitment to quality and the company continues to live up to its ISO 9001:2000 certification.

TAP has successfully penetrated the local, regional and international markets, with its' high end clay floor, wall and roof tiles.

Trade and Investment Convention 2009

This year, the Trade and Investment Convention (TIC), celebrates its 10th anniversary. Widely regarded as the Caribbean's biggest business event, it will take place from June 24th -27th, 2009 at the Centre of Excellence, Macoya, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

TIC showcases regional and global business and has generated over USD 375 million in trade in the last decade. From small transactions to orders for containers of goods to massive construction contracts – just about every type of deal is done on the TIC Tradeshow floor.

TIC offers, exhibitors, buyers, distributors and investors the opportunity to network with potential business partners. Visitors to TIC include buyers from the private and public sectors, representing manufacturing companies, supermarkets, pharmacies, construction firms, regional distributors and many other organisations.

The prospects are endless, as Trinidad and Tobago partners with businesses across the globe and leverages on its natural, geographic and human resources to attract high potential investors.

For more information on how you can be a part of this event, please contact the TIC 2009 Secretariat.

Tel: (868).675.8862
Fax: (868).675.9000
Email: tic@ttma.com; convention@ttma.com; promotions@ttma.com

Website: www.tic-tt.com

Foreign Exchange Rates as at March 3 , 2009

Currency	Counter: Buying	Selling	Notes: Buying
Pound Sterling	8.6106	8.9854	8.1056
US Dollar	6.1385	6.2920	6.0000

Source: Scotiabank Trinidad & Tobago Limited

WTI Cushing Spot Crude Oil Price on March 2 , 2009 $44.76 per barrel

Commonwealth Youth Programme Team visit TTHC

A fourteen (14) member planning team of the Commonwealth Youth Programme paid a courtesy call on His Excellency John Jeremie S.C. on Friday February 27, 2009. Led by Mr. Vic Craggs, Chief Executive, Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council, the group, which comprises fourteen (14) young adults from Commonwealth countries, was in London to plan the next Commonwealth Youth Forum which will take place in the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009.

The young adults, some of whom were experiencing a taste of Trinidad and Tobago for the first time, held an interactive session with His Excellency and discussed *inter alia* their spin on the CHOGM theme, 'Partnering for a More Equitable and Sustainable Future'; the communiqué; climate change; the current economic climate; their hopes for a successful Forum and some of the challenges that lay ahead.

Focus on the Mission

Above: Members of the Commonwealth Youth Programme attend a briefing at the Triinidad and Tobago High Commission, London.

Above: Former Minister in the Ministries of trade and Industry and National Security, Fitzerald Hinds (at left) with a fellow masquerade from the band All Stars, Carnival Tuesday. Photo by Donald Chambers.

Above: His Excellency John Jeremie S.C. meets author Michael Anthony at the office of the High Commissioner. Photo by Donna Philip-Forde.

Above: A happy national (at right) is pleased to receive a copy of Caribbean Visionary from the author himself, Selwyn Cudjoe. Photo by Donna Philip-Forde.

Far left: Writer Amanda Smyth at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission for the launch of her book Black Rock.

Left: A portion of the sizeable audience at the launch.

High Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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